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**Subject:** Bay Delta Plan - updated SED

**From:** Mark Robbins [<mailto:ohzipdedoda@yahoo.com>]

**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 12:54 AM

**To:** commentletters

**Subject:** Bay Delta Plan - updated SED

Chair Marcus and State Water Board,

My concern for our California's water and natural resources prompts me to send this communication to you, asking for your ongoing support for unimpaired flows of 50% or more to the Greater Bay Area Delta.

With the updated Substitute Environmental Document (SED) for the Bay Delta Water Quality Control Plan, your commitment to unimpaired water flows enable the maintenance and growth of our natural aquatic stock, including salmon. The support of this stock by sufficient flows preserves one of California's precious native resources. Both man and wildlife have historically benefitted from the food chain that starts with our rivers, and sufficient flows will assure that we will continue to benefit from this resource,

In advance, I appreciate your consideration of this matter.

Best regards,  
Mark Robbins

- At least half of the San Joaquin River's natural flow should reach the delta during the first six months of each year. Flows in the summer and fall should be sufficient to maintain fish and wildlife, water quality and recreational opportunities.
- Low river flows impede fish passage, concentrate pollutants, raise water temperatures, decrease dissolved oxygen, and eliminate migratory clues.
- Historically, populations of spawning salmon may have exceeded 400,000 fish in the San Joaquin River Basin, but in many recent years that figure has plummeted to less than 2,000 fish.
- Salmon are a keystone species, providing food for other animals and transporting nutrients from the ocean to upland habitats. More than 100 species depend on salmon.
- The commercial salmon fishery in California is on the brink. The salmon population was so low in 2008 and 2009 that the commercial fishing season had to be cancelled.
- The Bay-delta forms the West Coast's largest estuary, providing habitat for more than 500 species of wildlife. It serves as a major stopover for the Pacific Flyway and as a migration path for salmon, steelhead and sturgeon traveling to and from their home streams to the Pacific Ocean.

- Up to 6.8 million acre-feet (2.2 trillion gallons) of water per year are pumped from the southern delta for agriculture and urban uses.
- Through better management of snowmelt, water-efficient irrigation practices, and replacing lower-value, water-intensive crops with higher-value, water-efficient crops, we could grow more food with less water.

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Mark Robbins

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Sent by iPhone